Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Tuesday 10 Jan 2023 until 23:59 on Wednesday 11 Jan 2023

Forecast Issued on Monday 09 Jan 2023 at 10:53

Confidence: High for unsettled and often windy conditions through the next few days. Lower confidence for exact timings of weather fronts affecting the UK.

Headline for Tuesday 10 Jan 2023: Very wet and windy. Storm force winds on the tops.

Mountain weather hazards on Tuesday 10 Jan 2023

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
Medium Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Low Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
High Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Cloudy	Light snow	Sleet	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Light rain
Precipitation probability							
20%	30%	>95%	>95%	>95%	>95%	>95%	70%

Forecast for Tuesday 10 Jan 2023

Weather: Rain arriving overnight, preceded by snow above 600m. Continuous rain through the day, often heavy with strong winds bringing drenching conditions. The rain clearing to showers in the evening, wintry later above 800m.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Almost zero chance during the day. 70% in early hours and late evening.

Low cloud and visibility: Poor visibility with extensive and persistent cloud and fog above 300m, but perhaps rising to 600m at first over northern fells then more generally through the evening. Very difficult navigation conditions.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Tuesday 10 Jan 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	25/32 W	25/31 SW	32/42 S	42/54 SE	45/57 S	50/65 SW	36/48 W	32/44 W	32/44 W
600	21/30 W	17/25 SW	27/38 S	37/53 SE	33/47 S	39/56 SW	28/41 W	27/39 W	26/40 W
300	10/24 W	7/22 SW	13/31 S	17/41 SE	8/30 S	16/43 SW	13/34 W	13/32 W	13/33 W
Valley	10/23 W	7/19 SW	12/27 S	16/35 SE	12/33 S	18/41 SW	13/30 W	15/31 W	15/31 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-0/-8	-1/-8	-1/-9	1/-9	4/-3	6/-1	3/-4	2/-5	0/-7
600	2/-5	1/-4	1/-6	2/-7	5/-1	7/2	5/-1	4/-2	2/-4
300	4/0	4/1	3/-2	3/-2	6/4	9/5	7/4	6/2	5/1
Valley	6/3	6/4	6/2	5/1	9/6	10/7	9/6	8/5	7/4
Freezing Level*	800m	800m	800m	1800m	2400m	2100m	1500m	1200m	900m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Particularly unpleasant conditions in the fells with heavy rain and very strong winds. Mobility difficult across higher slopes and ridges with gusts of 65 to 75mph.

Forecast for Wednesday 11 Jan 2023

Weather: Bright or clear spells and showers, these moving through quickly on the strong westerly winds but the odd one could be heavy and thundery in the afternoon. The showers will fall as sleet or snow above 600m. A severe wind chill on the tops.

Maximum wind: West or Southwest 25 to 30mph with gusts of 45 to 50mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 60%, best chance in morning.

Low cloud and visibility: Mainly good visibility but poor in showers. Occasional cloud and fog above 600m, falling to lower slopes in showers.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 6 or 7C.
At 800m: 0C.
Freezing level: 800 or 900m.

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Monday 9 January 2023. Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:15. Full report: This report comes with a health warning in that the majority of the Lake District (and indeed the NW) is under a Met Office Yellow warning for rain from 6am on Tuesday to 8pm Tuesday (proceeded by summit snow) so walkers out on Tuesday could experience very different conditions to those experienced and described today.

There is a significant contrast in conditions between the green valleys and the white fells. There is snow from 600m. Depth rises with height although actual depth encountered varies enormously from little on windswept areas (such as parts of the summit plateau) to drifts of over 70cm (although such depth was exceptional) with an extremely rough average of 10-15cm at 900m. The snow was deposited on strong SW-W winds so the deepest drifts are located in sheltered spots and hollows and on steep E and N facing aspects. The majority of the snowpack was soft making breaking trail heavy going. Harder snow and ice was only encountered at or near summit level. Conversely, there was a slow thaw below 800m and especially below 700m. Cornices (snow overhangs) exist above steep N and E facing aspects – such as along Helvellyn's summit plateau. Owing to limited visibility it was not possible to safely inspect them but they will also consist of soft snow so will be extremely unstable; therefore please keep off any such snow covered edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise. The summit temperature around midday was just below zero but the summit windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) was under minus 10 degrees C, so full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass are all essential to safely enjoy the fells. Low cloud when combined with snow obscuring ground features (including steep drops) necessitate excellent navigational skills. For those venturing above the snowline and attempting, or traversing, steep and exposed routes (such as the Helvellyn edges) an ice axe and crampons are essential. Microspikes are useful for any walkers heading above the snowline. The current forecast for heavy rain and milder temperatures means that any normally easy non-bridged water crossings are likely to be problematic on Tuesday. It could be a day to enjoy waterfalls or to stay indoors!! Temperature: minus 0.8 C, Maximum wind speed 38.2 mph, Wind chill: minus 10.6 C, Average wind speed: 28.1 mph

Issued at: 1053 on Mon 09 Jan 2023

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